

Gray Fox

M074 (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

STATUS: No official listed status. Furbearer, may be taken only during trapping season, with license. Rare to common in widespread range in the Sierra Nevada.

DISTRIBUTION/HABITAT: Found throughout lower foothill elevations; prefers chaparral and shrub-seedling-sapling stages of oak and digger pine woodlands; avoids dense and mature forests.

SPECIAL HABITAT REQUIREMENTS: Caves, hollow logs, snags, or rock crevices in talus for dens.

BREEDING: Breeds at 1 year of age and has one litter per year. Two to 7 young per litter are produced (average 3 or 4). Breeds from February to June, with peak from March to May. Dens found in rocky areas, crevices in cliffs, burrows, hollow logs, snags, and even buildings.

TERRITORY/HOME RANGE: Home ranges probably encompass up to 3.8 mi² (10 km²), but average most likely between 0.2 to 1.2 mi² (0.5 to 3.0 km²).

FOOD HABITS: Diet of mice, gophers, rabbits, woodrats, some birds, insects, fruits, and berries. Main hunting technique involves ambushing prey. Forages on ground and in shrubs; will climb trees.

OTHER: Crepuscular and nocturnal; active all year. Densities may reach 2.6 to 5 animals/mi² (1 or 2/km²). In spring and summer, often associated in family aggregations. *Urocyon* considered conspecific with *Canis* by some (see Williams 1979).

REFERENCES: Grinnell *et al.* 1937, Lord 1961. Trapp and Hallberg 1975.

